ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Disclosed is a positive electrode active material for a nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery having at least a lithium-transition metal composite oxide of a layer structure, in which an existence ratio of at least one selected from the group consisting of elements which may become tetravalent and magnesium is 20% or more on a surface of the lithium-transition metal composite oxide. By use of this positive electrode active material, a nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery having excellent battery characteristics, specifically, having excellent high rate characteristics, cycle characteristics, low-temperature characteristics, thermal stability, and the like, under the even more harsh environment for use can be realized.